

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Fylde Rural District

For the Year 1896.

E. G. B. STARKIE, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

T. E. SMITH, Printer, Poulton-le-Fylde.



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In compiling this, my first Annual Report, I have confined my remarks for the most part to the second half of the year 1896, from which my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health dates. In the case of the vital statistics, however, the tables will be found to refer to the whole year.

Following the method of your late Medical Officer, Dr. Winn, the report will be divided into the following sections :—

1st.—An account of the principal zymotic diseases and the measures taken to prevent their spread.

2nd.—An account of inquiries made and action taken in the case of conditions injurious to health.

3rd.—A summary of the state of the District generally at the end of the year.

4th.—Tabular statements of the sickness and mortality, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

SECTION I.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act being now in force in the district, early information has in nearly all cases been received of the occurrence of the principal Zymotic diseases. In every instance isolation of the infected person has been carried out as far as the surrounding of home and family permitted. A period of six weeks' quarantine has been enforced of all persons suffering from scarlet fever, unless definite information has been received from the medical attendant, that, in his opinion, the patient was free from infection in a shorter time.

Your Sanitary Inspector has disinfected all premises, and has instructed those in attendance on the patients in the use of disinfectants during the progress of the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet fever has been prevalent in various parts of the district during the greater part of the year.

Outbreaks have occurred in Poulton, Wesham, Thornton, Singleton, Freckleton, Marton, Little Eccleston, and Elswick.

In all 56 cases have been notified, and 4 deaths have taken place.

I am unable to state accurately the origin of the infection, as in nearly all the districts named cases had occurred before the date of my appointment, but in regard to Thornton I have twice been able to state definitely that the disease had been imported; once to Cleveleys, in June, and again to Rumper Road, Station Hill, Thornton, in September.

It is not difficult to see that Thornton is particularly liable to importations of this kind owing to the rapid increase in the population and the immigration of workmen and their families from manufacturing towns.

Owing to the existence of this disease in the family of the Master of the Thornton Endowed School, and amongst the pupils, I deemed it necessary to close the school for a period of eight weeks.

Two instances have come under my notice—one at Wesham and one at Little Thornton—where parents have failed to call in a medical man or to notify the existence of the disease to me.

MEASLES.—No cases of measles have been brought to my notice during the past six months, but as it is not included in those to be notified, this cannot be taken as a proof of its entire absence.

DIPHTHERIA.—Three cases have been reported in Marton, and one has proved fatal. The infected premises have been inspected by me. In all instances conditions of an insanitary character have been found, and notices served on owners and occupiers to have these conditions remedied.

‘TYPHOID FEVER.—Eleven cases, one death.

In July a case at Wesham. On visiting the premises with the Sanitary Inspector I could not find conditions sufficient to account for the occurrence of the disease. Further investigation pointed to the Phoenix Mill as the source of the infection. We visited these premises and found the methods used for the disposal of excrement most defective. (See Report, Sect. III.)

In October a case at Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde. With the Inspector I visited the house, and made enquiries into the cause. Not being able to come at any definite information we made a thorough examination of the sewers, which proved that the drains were in a most defective condition, allowing, when the test was applied, the smoke to enter freely into the dwelling. These defects have now been remedied.

Two cases occurred in the same family at Laburnum Terrace, near Wesham.

Three cases occurred in December at the house of Mr. Wm. Bamber, School Lane, Marton. The cause being, in my opinion, contamination by sewage of the drinking water supply.

One case at Station Road, Poulton, was probably caused by defective conditions of the house drains.

CROUP.—No deaths.

CHICKEN POX was certified as causing the death of one child at Marton.

DIARRHŒA.—Five fatal cases have been returned.

PUERPERAL FEVER caused one death at Thornton.

SECTION II.

The BAKEHOUSES and SLAUGHTERHOUSES have been systematically inspected, and have been found generally in a satisfactory condition.

For the future all licensed slaughterhouses will be required to exhibit a notice board bearing the occupier's name and the words, "Licensed Slaughterhouse."

During the year a prosecution has been instituted and a conviction obtained against a butcher for killing on unlicensed premises.

The main watercourses have been regularly looked after by the Sanitary Inspector, who also has given careful attention to the condition of the cowsheds and dairies. In all cases, where necessary, notices have been served on owners and occupiers of property.

In July last, with the Inspector, I made a systematic inspection of the various factories and workshops at Wesham, paying particular attention to the methods of removal of excremental refuse. As the result of this inspection I condemned the methods used at the Phoenix Mills, which were at that time of an objectionable character. The whole system at this factory has now been changed—the pail system being substituted for the common privy, and the premises are at present in a satisfactory condition.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—Thirty-nine samples have been taken, and 3 convictions have resulted.

The "Smoke Test" has been applied to 31 drains during the year, and has proved of much value.

SECTION III.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Fylde water mains have been extended in Marton from Hawes Side to School Lane End. The extension at Thornton, through Mill Lane, will supply all houses in the vicinity of the Trunnah.

This water will also soon be taken to Hardhorn village, and will be within reach of thirteen houses whose supply is now insufficient.

At Breck Street, Poulton, Fylde water has been substituted for an unwholesome well supply to four houses.

Eight samples of water have been examined by me, 7 of which were condemned.

ASH PITS.

The emptying is, as in previous years, carried out by the Parish Councils at Poulton-le-Fylde and Wesham. For the future, in the former parish, the work will be done three times yearly instead of twice as heretofore.

HOUSES CONDEMNED, &c.

One house at Elswick has been condemned since last June.

As reported to you in July, the five cottages situated in Cock Robin Row, Elswick, were considered in an unsafe and insanitary condition. The owner has since carried out alterations, and further improvements are in progress.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

As representatives have now been appointed by this Council on the joint-committees in charge of these matters, I hope that the district will before long have this means of carrying out isolation.

SECTION IV.

During the past twelve months 410 births have been registered, as compared with 388 in 1895, and 359 in 1894. The births in the four Sub-districts were as follows :—Fleetwood, 145; Kirkham, 198; Blackpool, 53; and Lytham, 14.

Reference to Table B. will show that I have estimated the population to the middle of 1896 as 13,426, distributed in the four Sub-districts :—

Fleetwood	...	...	4,662.
Kirkham	...	...	6,560.
Blackpool	...	...	1,872.
Lytham	...	...	372.

The birth-rate for the year will thus be 30·09 per 1,000.

Of deaths from all causes, 222 have been registered, that is 15 fewer than in 1895. Deaths from zymotic diseases have amounted to 8, viz., scarlet fever, 4; measles, 1; diphtheria, 1; and typhoid fever, 1.

From diarrhoea there have been 5, and from phthisis 15, *i.e.*, 8 fewer than in 1895. 47 children under 1 year of age have succumbed.

The death-rates per 1,000 of population are as follows :—

From all causes	... ..	16·53.
Zymotic diseases (7 principal)		0·52.

For further information under this heading see appended Tables.

In conclusion,

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. G. B. STARKIE,

*Medical Officer of Health
Fylde Rural District Council.*

POULTON-LE-FYLDE,

February, 1897.



FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report and Summary of work done for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1896, this being my Seventh Annual Report.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Total Number of Notices Preliminary.....	183
Notices served by order of the Council.....	34
Special Reports.....	8
Dwelling-houses Improved and rendered fit for habitation	6
„ Condemned as unfit.....	1
New drains put in for waste and refuse water.....	26
Drains opened, cleaned, and rectified.	26
Sink and Bath and other pipes disconnected from drains and made to discharge over gully traps	11
Cellars drained and cellar drains rectified.....	3
Back yards and back streets of filthy matter.....	27
Privies built and improved.....	17
Offensive ashpits rectified.....	7
Water closets rectified and improved.....	1
New W.C. erected in place of old privies.....	5
Privies and ashpits cleaned under notice.....	2
Nuisance from stagnant sewage abated.....	4
Accumulations of manure removed under notice.....	6
Offensive ditches cleaned out.....	2
Sewage and urine tanks constructed.....	7
„ „ emptied and cleaned.....	12
Farm Yards and premises drained.....	8
Nuisance from pigstyes abated.....	3
Dead Animals, garbage, and other offensive matter removed and buried.....	5
Animals kept in unsuitable position removed.....	6
Defective soil-pipes and other down pipes rectified..	5
Untrapped drains remedied.....	5
Windows inserted in bedrooms having none.....	1
Drains tested with smoke test.....	31

The defects are distributed over the district as follows :—

Bryning	3
Clifton-with-Salwick	1
Freckleton	5
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	6
Newton-with-Scales	1
Medlar-with-Wesham	58
Ribby-with-Wrea	6
Treales, Roseacre, and Wharles.....	<i>nil.</i>
Weeton-with-Preese	1
Westby-with-Plumpton	6
Elswick and Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck.....	21
Poulton-le-Fylde	32
Carleton.....	1
Singleton	<i>nil.</i>
Thornton	13
Bispham.....	7
Hardhorn	5
Marton	29

Water Courses.

The main water courses through some of the lower lying parts of the district have been examined, and when any obstruction to the free flow of the water has been found, notice to remove the obstruction has been served on the owner or occupier of the land immediately adjoining; the total of notices for this work being 55.

Common Lodging-Houses.

Of these there is now only one in your district which I have visited at intervals. The occupier has had to be warned as to the keeping of the same limewashed, and also both owner and occupier as to the privy accommodation.

Slaughter-Houses

These have on the whole been well kept, it only having been necessary in a few instances to caution

occupants as to limewashing and removal of garbage. In November we seized a carcase of beef as unfit for food, but failed to get the Magistrate to condemn the whole. The portion condemned was cut away and buried. The slaughter-house in which this was killed was unregistered, for which the occupier was summoned and fined.

Bakehouses

Visited and found well kept.

Disinfection.

Dwellings and contents after scarlet fever.....	39
„ „ diphtheria	2
„ „ typhoid	4
„ „ typhus	<i>nil.</i>
„ „ puerperal fever	1

Legal Proceedings.

The following legal proceedings have had to be taken to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Act being carried out.

For non-abatement of Nuisance as per notice.....	4
For refusing to cause houses to be disinhabited after being condemned.....	1
For killing in an unregistered slaughter-house.....	1

Condemned Houses.

During the year I have had to serve notice on two occupiers of houses which were condemned in order to have the same disinhabited.

Public Health Water Act.

OLD HOUSES.

Number of Inquiries made by Inspector	63
Notices given by Authority	10
Supply Improved by putting in Fylde Water	1
„ by New Well	2
„ by cleaning existing Well	2
„ by stored Roof Water.....	2
Samples submitted to M.O.H. for examination	13

NEW HOUSES.

During the year 133 new houses have been occupied, viz., Thornton, 85; Poulton, 16; Carleton, 11; Marton, 7; Bispham, 5; Elswick, 2; Weeton, 2; Hardhorn, 2; Wrea Green, 2; Freckleton, 1. The water supply being from the following sources:—F. W. W. 114; New wells, 2; Existing wells, 10; Stored roof water, 7.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Improvements have been made at several farms, mostly in the way of improved drainage. It has been found necessary in one case to serve notice for the removal of pigs kept in the cowshed.

In conclusion I must add that as usual much sanitary work has been done without notices being served, the owners and occupiers complying with the verbal requests of your Medical Officer and myself.

I am, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES JOLLY.

Sanitary Inspector.

Table A.—TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.													Total.			
	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.		Injuries.	All other Diseases.	
Fleetwood Sub-district	78	18	3	3	2	28	24	Under 5 ... 2 5 upwards... 1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	15	21
Kirkham "	96	19	9	4	7	31	26	Under 5 ... 2 5 upwards... 1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	19	27
Blackpool "	42	9	7	1	3	8	14	Under 5 ... 1 5 upwards... 1	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	14
Lytham "	6	1	1	0	1	1	2	Under 5 ... 1 5 upwards... 1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Totals.....	222	47	20	8	13	68	66	Under 5 ... 3 5 upwards... 1	1	1	1	1	2	4	...	...	5	1	2	4	2	44	64
																2	15	31	15	4	9	77	158

Table B.—TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year, 1896, in the FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.			
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.
FLEETWOOD SUB-DISTRICT.....	3614	4622	145	Under 5..... 5 upwards...	15 23	... ...	... 4	... 1
KIRKHAM "	6263	6560	198	Under 5..... 5 upwards...	5 6	... ...	... 3	......
BLACKPOOL "	1710	1872	53	Under 5..... 5 upwards...	3 4	... 3	... 3	......
LYTHAM "	351	372	14	Under 5..... 5 upwards...	... ...	... ...	... 1	......
Totals.....	11,938	13,426	410	Under 5.. ... 5 upwards..	23 33	... 3	... 11	... 1

Notification of Infectious Disease since October 1895. No Hospital for isolation of Infectious Diseases in the Fylde Rural Sanitary District.

